GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:258
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2002
INFILTRATION OF AL QUAIDA TERRORISTS
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any information about the infiltration of AL-Quaida terrorists in the country particularly in Kashmir and Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the AL-Quaida activities in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH.VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (c): Government have been receiving reports indicating that following the defeat of Taliban and other foreign terrorists who were in Afghanistan prior to November 2001, a substantial number of erstwhile Taliban and allied fundamentalist gtroups have crossed over to Pakistan and POK.These terrorists are likely to join terrorists outfits like Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Al-Badr, Hizbul Mujahideen etc. for their eventual infiltration into Jammu & Kashmir and to escalate terrorist violence in the State of J&K and elsewhere. The possibility of Al-Qaida terrorist having infiltrated into J&K and Assam cannot be ruled out. In addition to continued diplomatic initiatives at various levels and redeployment of troops at borders/LoC and intensive pressure on terrorists in the hinterland the Government, conjointly with the State Government, has adopted a multi-pronged approach, to contain cross border terrorism perpetrated by the pro-Pak terrorist outfits/Pak ISI in Jammu & Kashmir, which includes, inter-alia, strengthening border management to check infiltration; pro-active action against terrorists within J&K; gearing up intelligence machinery; greater functional integration through an institutional frame-work of Operation Groups and Intelligence Groups of the UHQ at all levels; improved technology, weapons and equipments for security forces and action as per law against over ground supporters of the terrorists.

The strategies, tactics and dynamic deployment to counter the terrorists are constantly reviewed, refined and monitored in the Unified Headquarters in the State and in Operation Group at various levels.